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**Guidance for Municipal Leaders: Responding to Ebola Concerns in Your Community
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The ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus disease (Ebola) in West Africa and recent cases in the U.S. have resulted in heightened public health vigilance nationwide. As a leader in your community, you are likely to play a key role in responding to concerns about Ebola in your city or town.

Please note that, to date, there have been no cases of Ebola virus disease diagnosed in Massachusetts.

In the interest of protecting the health of your community as well as individual privacy and confidentiality, avoiding undue public alarm, and utilizing public resources effectively, you should rely on your local public health agents and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) for guidance and support. This checklist is designed to inform your response and direct you to available resources at the state level.

If an individual in your community develops symptoms consistent with Ebola, the situation will require careful evaluation -- but it does not constitute an emergency. The majority of situations that raise concerns about Ebola can be addressed by consulting with state epidemiologists. The vast majority of the time, the possibility of Ebola can be ruled out quickly, and will not require engaging emergency personnel.

- ☐ Municipal leaders, attending clinicians, or emergency personnel that may be dealing with a potential Ebola case should first contact their local health department or health agent. Local personnel will call **617-983-6800** (MDPH's 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call) to consult on the individual's travel history, exposure risk, and symptoms. The state Epi-on-Call will guide local health personnel through a series of questions to assess risk of Ebola.
- ☐ If travel history, exposure to a known Ebola patient, and symptoms are consistent with a suspect case of Ebola, the individual should be isolated in a room to limit their contact with others while waiting for medical transport*. The State Epi-on-Call will guide staff on the scene regarding any needed protective procedures. **Please note: Ebola can only be spread by people who have active and obvious symptoms such as vomiting, unexplained bleeding, severe headache and high fever.**

- ❑ If, in consultation with the State Epi-on-Call, it's determined that an individual meets criteria for being an "Ebola contact" – a person who does not have symptoms but had direct contact with an Ebola patient— the State Epi-on-Call will request that staff on the scene relay quarantine instructions and monitoring plans, and assist the individual with transportation home (or other location of choice) if needed.
- ❑ If, in consultation with the State Epi-on-Call, the individual in question does not meet criteria for a suspect Ebola case or contact –but is in medical distress— local personnel should arrange for appropriate medical care or emergency services as warranted. If the individual is not ill or in distress, they may continue their usual activities without restriction.

*The State Epi-on-Call will direct local public health personnel to coordinate with emergency medical services, advise EMS dispatch that the individual to be transported meets the criteria for a suspect case of Ebola and arrange for medical transport to a health care facility.